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LETTER DATED 2 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you a fax-transmitted copy of the statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 2 July 1993 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia is concerned with the instability and uncertainty in Azerbaijan and with the negative impact these have had on processes leading to democracy and peace in the region.

The situation in Baku is fraught with danger as different parties and leaders are willing to use any means, including renewed military operations against Nagorny Karabagh, to achieve political goals.

The Government of Armenia is particularly disturbed by the statements being released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan regarding military activities in and around Nagorny Karabagh. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia considers it below its dignity to respond to statements which have little to do with the situation on the ground.

Repeated accusations against the Republic of Armenia by Azerbaijan reflect a loss of a sense of reality and proportion rather than a steady policy and clear direction in that republic. The authorities in Baku - which have imposed censorship on their own newspapers - seem to find it easier to flood the international media with accusations against Armenia rather than deal with the crises of democracy and legitimacy in Azerbaijan.

The Government of Armenia is confident that the international community will see Azerbaijan's propaganda campaign for what it is: a futile attempt motivated by domestic problems aimed at the covering up of continuing Azerbaijani bombardment by heavy artillery and military aviation of the civilian population of Nagorny Karabagh.

However much Armenia, Nagorny Karabagh and the international community may be used to the irrational behaviour and unpredictability in Azerbaijani policies, Armenia must still express its deep concern regarding Azerbaijan's inability and unwillingness to commit itself fully to and sustain the CSCE Minsk Group peace initiative.

Continuing military operations by Azerbaijani forces - whether controlled by Baku or by uncontrolled armed groups - and the accompanying campaign of misinformation can only weaken the confidence of the parties in the initiative and strengthen the position of those in the region who oppose the current process leading to the interruption of hostilities and a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Under the circumstances Armenia will be unable to resist doubts regarding the seriousness and ability of Azerbaijan to believe in and implement the Minsk Group plan. Armenia, as well as Nagorny Karabagh, are wondering whether they will ever have a partner in peace in Azerbaijan, a partner sufficiently stable, reliable and consistent to sustain a dialogue, a partner that can appreciate the restraint shown during these difficult days for Azerbaijan.

The Government of Armenia hopes that Azerbaijan will be able to resolve its internal problems and, with the international community, focus on the establishment of a durable cease-fire in the region and the peaceful resolution of the problem of Nagorny Karabagh.